

Message Text

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ACTION EB-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 EUR-10 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 RSR-01 /058 W

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R 301645Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 517

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8961

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, US, EC

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MORO, AMBASSADOR
CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA, WHO IS RUNNING THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS THE ARTICLE XXIV'6. THE
AMBASSADOR HANDED GAJA THE NOTE AND EXPLAINED THAT WHILE
THIS MATTER WAS HIGHLY COMPLICATED AND TECHNICAL THE
ESSENTIAL POLITICAL ISSUES WERE QUITE SIMPLE. THE
UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR
ANOTHER ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT
HAD SUBMITTED A FORWARD LOOKING MEASURE TO PERMIT THESE
NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS WHO ARE RELUCTANT TO SEE FURTHER TRADE LIBERALI-
ZATION. IN FACT, MANY WOULD LIKE TO PROMULGATE PROTECT-
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IONST LEGISLATION.

2. THE LEGISLATION WILL HAVE DIFFICULT PASSAGE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, BUT THE PROBLEM WILL BE MADE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT IF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DOES NOT NEGOTIATE FAIRLY ON COMPENSATION FOR THE COST OF THE ENLARGEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE GROWTH OF THE EC BUT THAT WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IN THE PROCESS OF ENLARGEMENT U.S. TRADE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN IMPAIRED. HE URGED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. WHEN THE DCM NOTED THAT IN PRACTICE THIS GETS DOWN TO ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES SUCH AS CITRUS AND TOBACCO, GAJA ADMITTED THAT THE ITALIANS HAD SENSITIVITIES ON THESE ITEMS BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE OBSTACLES WERE INSURMOUNTABLE.

3. GAJA RESPONDED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY SAYING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MORO AFTER THE AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED THE ISSUE IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION. GAJA SAID THAT MORO WAS, IN PRINCIPLE, DESIROUS OF BEING HELPFUL IN FINDING A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. GAJA SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE MINISTRY TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME08961
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VOLPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973085/aaaaador.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: ETRD, US, EC, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005